9/14/83

Dear Harold:

I hope I didn't offend you with my remark about the air conditioner. I was trying to make the point that some men judge other men by strange values.

By the way, when my wife and I lived in Los Angeles several years ago, we raised chickens in our back yard. Of course these were pets. We started with two black Cochins, then we added a Silkie and a few others of mixed breed. They all started having baby chicks, so we wound up with more than fifty of them one summer.

I was surprised to learn that chicken eggs are soft when they are first laid. They become hard, it seems, when they hit the air.

I learned a little chicken language. Ours, all together, had about a dozen words and phrases that they all knew. This was a true language because the separate words and phrases would be used only for one situation each. I always figured that we might be able to teach a chicken to talk like a parrot if we took a few years to breed them properly.

Regarding your barbecue, I find that very interesting. We southern people seem to think that only other southern people know how to barbecue properly. I like to do it too. When I barbecue, I place emphasis on the smoke rather than the sauce. Out in Los Angeles we used to use walnut wood which gave a wonderful flavor to the meat. We can't get walnut down here, so we use hickory.

There are several different sauces that I use. Some are based on soy sauce, others based on tomato and molasses (cane syrup boiled down). If the smoking is heavy enough, I just use salt and pepper with no sauce. If you want, I'll send you a hickory log so you can try it out.

Thanks for the information aobut Ron Kessler of the Post. I'll go to my local library and look up his articles. I've got a feeling that Oswald made a threat against Kennedy during one of his Embassy visits, and I'll bet this is something that LBJ wanted to keep secret years ago.

Regarding computerization of your records, it would be a large job, but I think it would be a valuable service to

researchers in years to come. When I get a chance, I'll computerize some of the documents you have sent me, and I'll give you a printout of the list. To computerize, you don't have to re-type each document. All you have to do is assign each document a few code words and a number or two.

When you want to look something up, you type a key word or two into the computer, then the computer searches for any and all documents that contain those key words, and it prints out the file number so that you can go right to the right file drawer or box to find the document.

Another file method is the chronological file list. For example, I've been adding to a chronological file of events in Oswald's life. This includes information on letters he wrote and received, and newspaper stories he read, and other news reports he might have heard about.

The method so far has helped me to identify the source of some of the information he discussed with Bill Stuckey during the first Stuckey interview. Stuckey never knew where Oswald came up with the "media censorship" idea that he talked about. Well, I found a story about President Kennedy forming a media censorship committee, a story that ran in the Times-Picayune several weeks before the Stuckey interview.

If I just made a photocopy of that article and stuffed it in a box, months later I would not remember the article date or its relative time frame. By mentioning the article in my chronological computer file, I can always quickly check the file to check the date.

Of course such files can be done by hand, but the computer is much faster and cannot be misplaced under a pile of old socks.

Look, I'm working on a TV documentary about Oswald, and it will be shown on my station in late November. I really need a copy of the Martin film to use in this program. If you don't hear from Groden soon, I wish you would consider loaning me your copy for a couple of days. Remember that you can insure it for a lot of money so that it will be safe going through the postal system, and I can give you any kind of statement assuring that the film will be safe while it is in my hands. I would need it for only one or two days since I would project it only once and video tape right off the movie screen.

Trying to track another copy down through the network of "critics" is impossible since most of them seem to be con men and liars out to make a buck selling phony books and magazine articles. I'm reasonably certain that I could turn up all sorts of copies of it if I could offer $10,000, but I can't so I'm stuck with nothing to offer in return. The whole world runs on money and lies, you know, so someone who has no money and tries to tell the truth is at a great disadvantage. This is depressing as hell, especially when I see my own film used in

other productions.

Remember the ABC special report on J. Edgar Hoover a couple of years ago? They showed my film of Oswald in New Orleans. While doing research here, I found an extra copy of my Oswald film in one of my safe deposit boxes. It was labeled "ABC copy". Then I remembered that way back in 1965, Peter Jennings was in New Orleans covering something, and came by WVUE where I worked at the time. For some idiotically naive reason, I gave Jennings a video taped copy of that extra print so ABC would have it in their files. Now and then I see the ABC copy used to promote one stupid theory or another. What a jerk I am.

John